

Governor's Advisory Council Meeting

SLTC – 1100 North Last Chance Gulch

Meeting Minutes April 26, 2022 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Zoom

In Attendance: Bob Myers, Alex Ward, Peggy Tombre, Gayle Carlson, Lori Brengle, Marianne Rouse, Barb Smith

State Support: Kerrie Reidelbach, State Unit on Aging, Freddi Haab-Fiedler, Project Specialist

Absent: Rita Harden, Curly Burns, Ryan Clark, Roberta Bigback, Wally Melcher

9:40 – 9:45 **Welcome and Introductions**

9:45 – 11:17 **Upcoming Governor's 53rd Conference on Aging 2022:**

1. We have hired Jeannie Etchart as the event planner. She couldn't attend today due to a scheduling conflict. Gayle has volunteered to work with the conference planning committee on the agenda and conference logistics.
2. Dates for conference October 4 and 5 (1.5 days). Jeannie is working on the contract with the Copper King.
3. It will be a hybrid conference using the Whova platform once again with the in-person meetings in Butte at the Copper King.
4. Silent Auction – need to get organized for the mini-grants fund raiser. Lori was asked and agreed to take the lead on this project. Members will be donating along with the local Area Agencies on Aging. Lori will reach out to them via email. Donations may be dropped off at the State Unit on Aging. If not, we will need a picture of the item. 50/50 tickets may be another option to raising money, we can table that for now as it will depend on how many we have in attendance.
5. GAC representatives are encouraged to assist with finding topics, speakers, etc.
 - a. Peggy suggested a tour of the Southwestern Montana Veterans Home – Ashley Bair is the state liaison
 - b. National Veteran Fraud Program – state volunteer under AARP. There is a brochure on AARP's website. Al sent the two following links:
 - i. [https://campaigns.aarp.org/vets-fraud-center/?cmp=EMC-DSO-NLC-RSS-FRD--CTRL-042122-P4-6311589&ET_CID=6311589&ET_RID=9378835&encparam=es8eBqa%2b6aRvg4qAGgwPiS4%2bBc7LxrlibfbATP693Jo%3d\[campaigns.aarp.org\]](https://campaigns.aarp.org/vets-fraud-center/?cmp=EMC-DSO-NLC-RSS-FRD--CTRL-042122-P4-6311589&ET_CID=6311589&ET_RID=9378835&encparam=es8eBqa%2b6aRvg4qAGgwPiS4%2bBc7LxrlibfbATP693Jo%3d[campaigns.aarp.org])

- ii. <https://states.aarp.org/montana/vetsfraudcenter> [states.aarp.org]
 - c. Statewide Needs Assessment results to be presented at conference
- 6. Centenarians – work with the sites to honor centenarians and have a party for them at their local senior center.

Nichole Thennis – Nutrition & Evidence Based Program Manager was introduced. Grew up in nursing home, very passionate about the elderly. Started her own company to work with elders to work on their bucket list as an alternative to hospice. She also worked on the APS Opioid grant under the M4A Association. Members of the council introduced themselves and welcomed Nikki.

State Plan/Statewide Needs Assessment:

1. Peggy received a hard copy of the survey and said it was a good survey with questions that she has an interest in. It took about 15 minutes. Freddi received an email copy and her comments echoed Peggy's.
2. It will be advertised in the local newspapers. Some members indicated they have seen it in their local papers.
3. It will also be added to the DPHHS Aging website and our Facebook page (Aging in the 406).
 - a. Survey should be sent out around March/April with the SUA receiving results in June/late July.

Legislative Preparation Update:

Barb Smith, Administrator, SLTC presented an update indicating current SLTC requests.

1. Guardianship program – currently APS is working on a two-year grant and SLTC would like this program to become permanent. We would make the five modified positions permanent. Currently these positions are identifying issues.
 - a. Montana Law
 - b. Unfunded Mandate
 - c. Budget and Legal Authority is needed to support permanency
2. OAA clean up on the rules and laws. Determine whether change the number of AAA's since we are a minimally funded state.
 - a. Eliminate old laws for grandfathering; no longer relevant
 - b. Legal office for the ombudsman
3. Fiscal accountability for HCBS – preparing a bill to present for new requirements on cost reports. Currently, a rate study is being completed and there is question about the rates being adequate.
4. Elder Justice Council – Governor ordered three additional councils throughout the state to complement the Eastern Elder Justice Council and are looking for board members.



- a. The new areas are: West, Northwest, South Central
 - b. The Governor's office would like to see standardization throughout the state for working cases and County Attorneys to prosecute cases.
 - i. If not prosecuting, then the individual is able to be hired anywhere.
5. World Elder Abuse Day is June 15
 - a. Looking at putting elder abuse information on coasters through a partnership with the Montana Tavern Association.
 - b. Lottery tickets – information will be printed in regard to the definition of elder abuse. “No Excuse, Report Abuse” and the phone number.
 - c. Retailers' receipts will be the next target group to approach.
6. Older American Act Month is in May
7. Notice of Award \$786,098 additional APRA funding titled: Expanding the Public Health Workforce within the Aging Network for States. We have submitted a proposal for the use of these funds with the Child & Family Health & Human Services (CFHHS). We would like to hire a position to work with senior centers to help them successfully reopen following the pandemic.
 - a. Discussed how many individuals was lost from congregate meals to grab-go and why they haven't returned to the centers.
 - b. Senior centers are struggling with the pandemic coming to an end.
 - c. Resource Directory update – work with AAA and provide them with \$50,000 to hire someone or increase existing staff hours to assist in updating the Resource Directory

Next meeting: July 26, 9:30 – 11:30 AM.

Bob adjourned the meeting at 11:17 AM.

Thanks!

